

# A message from Kathy Smith

Next Wednesday, come by the Sully Government Center at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. to catch Pokémon and learn about Pokémon Safety. My office is partnering with the Sully District Police station to provide a 12 hour Pokéthon from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Throughout the event, the police will be giving presentations on how to play safely. Some of the tips they'll be sharing can be found below.

Because so much of the game is played outside, I know there are lots of concerns about mosquitos and mosquito borne illnesses such as Zika. The Fairfax County Health Department will host a Zika town hall meeting here at the Sully Government Center at 7 p.m. to provide some tips and tricks for dealing with summer pests.

We'll have food trucks out front. We have a professional Pokémon expert scheduled to come give presentations about his career in gaming. If you'd prefer to catch a real animal during the event, the Animal Shelter will also be bringing adoptable pets.

Sign up for the event on Facebook here:

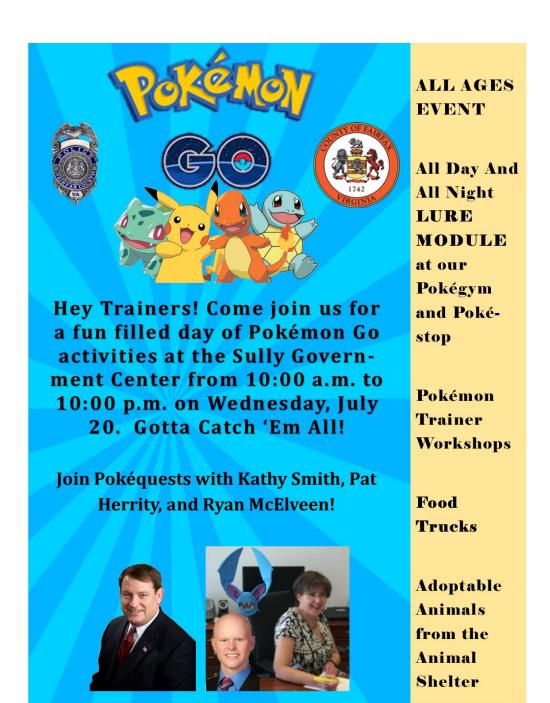
https://www.facebook.com/events/1752471488343815/

Kally

<u>facebook.com/sullydistrict</u> <u>twitter.com/sullysupervisor</u>







Five Tips for Playing Pokémon Go in Fairfax County

The Pokémon Go app has become hugely popular in our county (and internationally) since its release on July 6. However, there are **safety concerns you should be aware of** if you are a player, parent of a player or just someone who sees Pokémon Go players out and about.

## 1. Stay Alert

Our Police Department encourages everyone to stay alert and be mindful of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers who may be playing the game. If you are playing, you should not be on your phone while driving and use common sense when walking. Be aware of your surroundings; recently in the D.C. region, people playing the game have been robbed.

## 2. Supervise Kids

You should become familiar with the game before allowing your children to download the app. Pokémon Go is a multiplayer game where users may run into other players in the real world as they search similar areas. Take steps to keep your kids safe:

- You and your kids should discuss who they can interact with when they go out into public to use the app.
- Kids should never play the game alone but in a supervised group.
- Know when and where your kids are playing.

#### 3. Don't Trespass

The game has a "lure module" that leads the players to various locations to win points and catch Pokémon characters. These locations are called Pokestops. Pokestops have been found at public places such as libraries and parks.

But stops are also on private property, empty lots or even cemeteries. Players may not realize they are trespassing in restricted areas and may draw attention of law enforcement and residents. Please, don't trespass. You can catch Pokémon without going into or onto property.

### 4. Do Not Enter Fire Stations

Please do not enter our fire stations, including open apparatus bays. Our firefighters and medics respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day. At any given time, they may be called to

an emergency and a distracted pedestrian causes a dangerous situation for responders and trucks leaving the station.

# 5. Play in Our Parks!

We are thrilled that so many folks are coming to county parks to play. During your visit, take time to learn a little about the natural and cultural resources surrounding you using our <u>trails</u> <u>map</u>.

Playing the game requires you to frequently look at your phone, so we ask you to take these precautions:

- Please stay on the park trails even if the Pokémon don't.
- Pay attention to the time; our parks close at dusk. (Staff will chase out the Pokémon then, too.)
- Be sure to keep looking around to see where you are. We don't want you walking into a tree or a yellow jackets nest or bumping into other people.